



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

October 5, 2010

The Honorable Board of Directors
Los Angeles County
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COUNTY AND CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE
TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZE AWARD
AND ADMINISTRATION OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR
THE EL CARISO PARK PHASE II IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT,
CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 87107 AND
THE EL CARISO PARK UNIVERSAL PLAY AREA PROJECT,
CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 69526
(THIRD DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$6,526,624.80 in County and \$4,972,635.20 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to fund the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project and the El Cariso Park Universal Play Area Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed administrative actions are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

2. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to reduce the Various Third District Improvements Excess Funds grant to the County by \$566,989.84 and to reallocate the funds to the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project.
3. Allocate \$5,152,634.36 of County Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project.
4. Allocate \$4,972,635.20 of Cities Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the City of Los Angeles who will assign the right to apply for these funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project.
5. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to reduce the Various Third District Improvements Excess Funds grant to the County by \$807,000 and reallocate the funds to the El Cariso Park Universal Play Area Project.
7. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation, in the amount of \$10,692,259.40, after the City of Los Angeles assigns its right to apply for the Cities Excess Funds to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project and a grant in the amount of \$807,000 for the El Cariso Park Universal Play Area Project to the Department of Parks and Recreation when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total of \$5,719,624.20 in County and \$4,972,635.20 in Cities Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District to the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) for the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project and \$807,000 in County Excess Funds for the El Cariso Park Universal Play Area Project, and provide for administration of the grants, when awarded, under the existing Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects (Procedural Guide).

El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project (C.P. No. 87107)

The total project funding in the amount of \$10,692,259.40 for the El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project consists of:

- \$5,152,634.36 in County Excess funds available for allocation,
- \$566,989.84 in County Excess funds previously allocated to the Department for the Various Third District Improvements Excess Funds grant, a placeholder grant established to achieve parity with funds previously allocated to cities in the Third District, and
- \$4,972,635.20 in Cities Excess Funds available for allocation to the City of Los Angeles that the City will assign the right to apply to the Department.

The El Cariso Park Phase II Improvements Project consists of relocation of existing irrigation infrastructure and five group picnic shelters; replacement of two restroom structures; construction of two artificial turf soccer fields including related retaining structures, lighting, restrooms, spectator seating, walkways and parking; and upgrading all structures and pathways for compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

El Cariso Park Universal Play Area Project (C.P. No. 69526)

The total project funding in the amount of \$1,906,700 for the El Cariso Park Universal Play Area consists of:

- \$807,000 in County Excess funds previously allocated to the Department for the Various Third District Improvements Excess Funds grant, a placeholder grant established to achieve parity with funds previously allocated to cities in the Third District,
- \$652,700 in State Urban Parks and Healthy Community Program Funds, and
- \$447,000 in Net County Cost.

The El Cariso Park Universal Play Area consists of replacement of two play areas including the construction of a universal play area featuring various accessible play surfaces, sensory-rich play structures and independent play apparatus, swings, benches, access pathways, ramps, curbing, seat walls, and handrails for children of all abilities.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grants to the Department when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with CEQA requirements for the project, and to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by enhancing safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the City of Los Angeles in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$11,499,259.40, is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department meets this requirement. The 1996 Proposition also requires that Excess Funds be awarded to cities in the same total amount as is awarded to the County in the same fiscal year.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District from Excess Funds for County and City projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department would be authorized to award a grant to the Department when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide, for governing the administration of Regional Park and Open Space District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by the RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The County of Los Angeles is the lead agency for the El Cariso Park Phase II Project and the El Cariso Park Universal Play Area Project.

The administrative actions proposed by RPOSD are not subject to CEQA in that the actions do not meet the definition of a project according to Sections 15378 (b)(4)(5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the actions are administrative activities for government grants which by their terms do not involve any commitments to any specific projects which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended projects will enhance safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the City of Los Angeles and benefit other County residents in the Third Supervisorial District.

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CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,



Russ Guiney
Director, Parks and Recreation

RG:IV:WRO:LB:REGIONALPARKOPENSPOCEDISTRICT(EL CARISO PHASE II BL)

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors